

with ASPIRA of New York to sue the NYC Board of Education (1974). They were successful, and the resulting consent decree is considered a major landmark in the establishment of bilingual education in the United States.

Dr. Pantoja helped establish some of the most influential stateside organizations of the time including the National Puerto Rican Forum (1957), ASPIRA (1961), Universidad Boricua, the precursor of Boricua College (1970), and the Graduate School for Community Development (1978) in San Diego. In addition, she established Producir (1984) and Provienda (1985) in Puerto Rico. The Graduate School for Community Development incorporated her more comprehensive and well formulated understanding of community development and the need to include economic development, art and culture in the development of community. Utilizing these experiences, she then, with her partner, Dr. Wilhelmina Perry, worked with local residents to develop an organization that had a strong economic component to foster local businesses among the women and the farmers. This organization was formed in a rural mountain town in Canovanas, Puerto Rico. Provienda, a second corporation emanating from Producir, further focused these ideas on low-income housing in Puerto Rico.

Since its formation over 62 years ago, ASPIRA has grown from a small nonprofit agency in New York City to a national association with statewide Associate organizations in Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, South, North Carolina, and the ASPIRA Association Office in Washington, D.C. as well as in Puerto Rico.

ASPIRA continues to build on Dr. Pantoja's legacy of leadership development and movement building providing extensive cradle-to-career resources for Latina/o youth in communities across the United States. In 1996, she was recognized with the Nation's highest civilian honor by President Clinton when she became the first Puerto Rican woman to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Dr. Antonia Pantoja died of cancer in New York City on May 24, 2002. She was survived by her longtime partner, Dr. Wilhelmina Perry. May we celebrate the countless lives she touched and the myriad ways she helped improve New York.

#### RECOGNIZING THE VIRGINIA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY'S WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM

**HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 8, 2023*

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Virginia Wesleyan University Women's Soccer Team on their incredible season.

This year, the team finished fourth in the NCAA Division 3 National Tournament. This was the Marlins' second trip to the Final Four in school history and the first trip since 2006. With an overall record of 18 wins, three losses, and four ties, the Virginia Wesleyan Women's Soccer Team was the only unranked team to make the tournament this season.

Featuring three All-Region players, two NCAA All-Tournament players, and one Third Team All American player, the Marlins earned their spot in the Final Four with a combination of impressive talent and unrelenting hard work. The Marlins left it all out on the field and should be proud of their accomplishment. As a female athlete myself, I congratulate them on their amazing season and wish them all the best moving forward.

Again, congratulations to all the Virginia Wesleyan University Women's Soccer Team players, coaches, and fans on a historic and impressive season. Go Marlins.

#### INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO AMEND THE FRANK LOBIONDO COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2018 TO DIRECT THE COMMANDANT OF THE COAST GUARD TO PROVIDE CERTAIN DATA RELATED TO WATER QUALITY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 8, 2023*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce legislation to direct the Commandant of the Coast Guard to make available to state regulators information pertaining to ballast water management systems with a "Type Approval Certificate" issued by the U.S. Coast Guard. I would like to thank the California State Lands Commission for their meaningful contributions and collaboration on this shared priority.

Routine access to this information is critical to California's Marine Invasive Species Program, administered by the California State Lands Commission. It would also enable California and other states to assess the performance of U.S. Coast Guard-approved ballast water management systems. The nonproprietary information yielded from this assessment will inform policy recommendations to reduce the risk of the introduction or proliferation of invasive or nuisance species in state waters.

Federal law requires vessels to use a U.S. Coast Guard-approved ballast water management system to meet ballast water discharge standards. The U.S. Coast Guard collects important data on the efficacy of ballast water management systems to meet federal discharge standards as part of their type approval process. These data represent the most current and thorough data on the performance of these ballast water management technologies.

In 2018, Congress passed the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA), requiring the U.S. EPA to create uniform national performance standards for discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel, including ballast water. Once implemented, VIDA regulations preempt States' authority to enact more stringent standards for ballast water and other vessel discharges. However, states are authorized under that same 2018 federal law to inspect vessels and enforce the federal ballast water management requirements. States were also given explicit authority to petition the U.S. EPA and U.S. Coast Guard to adopt stricter standards if available data supports doing so.

VIDA also authorizes states to sample ballast water from arriving vessels to obtain information relevant to any future petition.

However, the California State Lands Commission and similar state regulators cannot perform this work—carrying out their legal responsibilities for state waterways—without ready access from the U.S. Coast Guard to information and datasets on the water quality characteristics and biological organism concentrations from post-treatment water discharged from ballast water management systems. To date, the State of California has been denied access to this critical public information from the U.S. Coast Guard despite filing a formal request and subsequent appeal under the federal Freedom of Information Act.

This legislation would fix this problem and require the U.S. Coast Guard to provide ballast water management system data, including information about the biological efficacy of approved systems, to states upon request. Mr. Speaker, I urge all members of the House to join me in cosponsoring this legislation.

#### CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF PATRICK EIDING

**HON. DONALD NORCROSS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 8, 2023*

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Congressman BRENDAN BOYLE of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District and Congressman DWIGHT EVANS of Pennsylvania's 3rd Congressional District, rise today to celebrate the retirement of Philadelphia Council AFL-CIO President, Patrick Eiding.

Over the course 21 years, Patrick Eiding has served the Philadelphia Council AFL-CIO to the best of his ability. First elected in January 2002, Patrick served a total of 5 full terms as the organization's President of the Council.

Prior to his tenure leading the Philadelphia AFL-CIO, Patrick Eiding served for over 25 years as the Business Manager and Financial Secretary of the Insulators and Asbestos Workers Local 14 where he oversaw both Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Southern New Jersey.

Throughout his career, Patrick Eiding successfully moved up through the leadership structure within the organization. Beyond his service to the Philadelphia Council AFL-CIO, Eiding serves as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Philadelphia Building Trades Council; a member of the Executive Council of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO; and sits on the General Board of the National AFL-CIO where he represents the Central Labor Councils located in the northeast region of the United States.

He has been a strong advocate for the interest and concerns of working-class families while serving as a member of the union, board, and commissions for several organizations. Some of which include the Philadelphia Area Labor Management Committee, the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and several more.

Today, Patrick Eiding continues to serve as the newly appointed member of the Philadelphia Works Incorporated and actively participates as a commissioner on the city planning commission of Philadelphia.